

Non-Structural Disaster Planning (Due: Wednesday, October 21) – 40 pts

Assignment: Using the checklist provided evaluate your home and determine if there are any non-structural things that you can do to prepare for a natural disaster. Choose a site – ideally your home or apartment, but you could also use a work place or other alternate site. Then systematically walk around the site and make a list of some of the potential hazards, and what you could do to make them safer. Use the checklist provided by “Project Impact” (below) as a guideline. Once you are done, write up a one-to-two page (typed, single space, 12pt text) summary of the potential hazards and their solutions. (Due: Wednesday, October 21). I’d also recommend that you try and do some of the things to make your home safer, too.

Project Impact Non-Structural Checklist: Whether through fire or flood, earthquake or tornado or hurricane, natural disasters occur every- where. And everywhere they occur, they do unnecessary damage as a result of hazards that could have been eliminated. This checklist identifies the common nonstructural hazards for Homes & Businesses. Use the list to prepare a work order for your property.

EQUIPMENT & FURNISHINGS

| | | |
|--|-----|----|
| Are appliances, cabinets and shelves attached to the wall or braced by being anchored together? | Yes | No |
| Are heavy or sharp items stored on shelves with ledge barriers? | Yes | No |
| Are blocks and heavy objects stored on the lowest shelves? | Yes | No |
| Are television sets, fish bowls and similar items restrained so they won't slide off? | Yes | No |
| Are pictures and other wall hangings attached to the wall with wire and closed screw-eyes? | Yes | No |
| Are chemicals such as bleach, paint thinner and cleaners securely stored so they won't spill? | Yes | No |
| Are cribs located away from the tops of stairs and other places where rolling could endanger them or where heavy objects could fall on them? | Yes | No |
| Are tall cribs anchored against tipping over? | Yes | No |
| Are heavy furnishings or pieces of equipment latched or tethered to the wall when not in use? | Yes | No |
| Are fire extinguishers secured so they won't fall from wall brackets? | Yes | No |
| Are tall refrigerators attached to the wall or otherwise secured from tipping? | Yes | No |

OVERHEAD ELEMENTS

| | | |
|---|-----|----|
| Are suspended ceilings secured to structural framing? | Yes | No |
| Are suspended light fixtures attached to structural framing with safety cables? | Yes | No |
| Do fluorescent lights have transparent sleeves to keep broken glass pieces from scattering? | Yes | No |
| Are battery-powered emergency lights secured to walls with shelves or brackets? | Yes | No |
| Are blackboards or projection screens securely mounted to the wall or hung safely from the ceiling? | Yes | No |

MECHANICAL EQUIPMENT

| | | |
|---|-----|----|
| Is the water heater secured to wall studs (not just gypsum board) at the top and bottom? Does the water heater have flexible connectors, rather than rigid connectors? | Yes | No |
| Do large sheet-metal heating-ventilating-air conditioning ducts have diagonal bracing above or enough vertical support straps to keep any section from falling if the ductwork separates into sections? | Yes | No |

PARTITIONS

- Are lightweight panels, rather than shelving units or other tall furnishings, used to divide rooms? **Yes No**
- Are heavy or tall room dividers braced by interconnecting them in L-shapes or zigzags? **Yes No**
- Are partitions, which extend only to the suspended ceiling, supported by the structure above, especially if they are used to anchor heavy objects in the room? **Yes No**

WINDOWS

- Are large windowpanes safety-glazed? **Yes No**
- Are transoms safety-glazed? **Yes No**
- Do partitions have plastic or safety glass panels, rather than ordinary glass? **Yes No**
- In hurricane-prone areas, have impact-resistant windows and doors been installed; or are storm shutters, made out of plywood or metal, on hand to cover large windows and doors? **Yes No**

EXTERIORS

- Are any trees leaning or in poor health? **Yes No**
- In regions that are at risk from wildfires, is the landscape suitably protected? **Yes No**
- Is the street number of the property clearly and legibly visible from the roadway so that emergency vehicles will be able to locate you easily? **Yes No**
- Are there fuel breaks like driveways, lawns and gravel walkways? **Yes No**
- Is there a "defensible space" of at least 100 feet around the building? **Yes No**
- Are the trees pruned six to ten feet from the ground to eliminate fuel ladders? **Yes No**
- Is there vegetation which might serve as a link between grass and treetops? **Yes No**
- Are trees spaced at least ten feet apart? **Yes No**
- Are native, fire-resistant vegetation and trees planted around the facility? **Yes No**
- Do you have a well-maintained irrigation system? **Yes No**
- Is leaf clutter removed and the lawn mowed regularly? **Yes No**
- Is firewood stored away from the structure? **Yes No**
- Are pine needles and leaves cleaned regularly from the roof and gutters? **Yes No**
- Are the undersides of aboveground decks enclosed with noncombustible material to prevent the buildup of leaves and debris? **Yes No**

IN ADDITION

- Do you have a disaster kit including a first aid kit? **Yes No**
- Do you have fire extinguishers and smoke detectors? **Yes No**
- Do you know how to shut off your main power switch, water and natural gas lines? **Yes No**
- Do you and your family and/or roommates have a disaster plan? **Yes No**